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PATENT APPLICATION

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APPLICATION FOR U.S. PATENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b)  
TRANSMITTAL FORM

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Box Patent Application  
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Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application  
of:

Inventor or Application Identifier: Allen Dean Mammel

Entitled: NO-TIE FISHING SYSTEM AND METHOD

Enclosed are:

- Specification (33 Total Pages)
- Drawing(s) (4 Total Sheet(s) of  Formal  Informal)
- Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney (   Total Pages)  
 Newly executed (original or copy)  
 Copy from a prior application  
(for continuation/divisional only)
- An Assignment of the invention to \_\_\_\_\_ is attached. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 3.28 and § 3.31 is included with an Assignment recordal fee of \$\_\_\_\_\_ pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.21(h).
- Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) PTO-1449  
 Copies of IDS Citations.
- Preliminary Amendment
- Certificate of Mailing
- Return Receipt Postcard
- Other - This application claims the benefit of serial number 60/111,305, filed provisionally on December 7, 1998.

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PATENT APPLICATION

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Applicant is:

Large Entity

Small Entity

Small Entity Statement enclosed

Small Entity Statement filed in prior application.  
Status still proper and desired.

The accompanying application is:

Original

Continuation  Divisional  Continuation-In-Part (CIP)  
of prior application No. 09/129,106 which is hereby  
incorporated by reference therein.

FEE CALCULATION					FEE
	Number		Number Extra	Rate	Basic Fee
Total Claims:	39	- 20 =	19	X \$ 9 =	\$ 171.00
Independent Claims	6	- 3 =	3	X \$39 =	\$ 117.00
TOTAL FILING FEE =					\$ 668.00

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$668.00 to satisfy  
filing fee requirements under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16. Please charge  
any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account  
No. 02-0384 of BAKER & BOTTS, L.L.P. A duplicate copy of this  
sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER & BOTTS, L.L.P.  
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Attorney Docket: 065123.0106

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

66/471/60  
  
In re Application of: Allen Dean Mammel  
Date Filed: September 17, 1999  
Title: NO-TIE FISHING SYSTEM AND METHOD

Box ~~Provisional Patent Application~~

Honorable Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL

I hereby certify that the attached Patent Application, Drawings, Fee Transmittal, Information Disclosure Statement and PTO-1449 Form, a check in the amount of \$668.00, and a copy of a Verified Statement Claiming Small Entity Status (37 C.F.R. 1.9(f) & 1.27(d)) - Nonprofit Organization filed previously are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on this 17th day of September 1999, addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

*Willie Jiles*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Willie Jiles

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No. EM082804086US  
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065123.0106

Applicant or Patentee: Allen Dean Mammel

Attorney's Docket No.: 065123.0106

Filed or Issued:

Title: NO-TIE FISHING SYSTEM AND METHOD

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS  
(37 CFR §§ 1.9(f) and 1.27(b)) -- INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

As below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees to the Patent and Trademark Office regarding the invention entitled NO-TIE FISHING SYSTEM AND METHOD, the specification of which is filed herewith.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below.\*

No such person, concern, or organization  
 Persons, concerns or organizations listed below\*

\*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

NAME: NOT APPLICABLE

ADDRESS:

INDIVIDUAL  SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN  NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Allen Dean Mammel  
NAME OF INVENTOR

  
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR

12/8/98  
DATE

NO-TIE FISHING SYSTEM AND METHOD

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of serial number 60/111,305, entitled *No-Tie Fishing System and Method*, filed provisionally on December 7, 1998. This application is also a continuation-in-part application of application Serial No. 09/129,106 filed August 4, 1998, entitled *No-Thread Fishing Equipment*.

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates in general to fishing equipment and, more particularly, to a no-tie fishing system and method.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Fishing equipment is available in a variety of sizes, shapes, colors and configurations for attracting and catching different species of fish. Examples of fishing equipment include devices for hooking and catching the fish, such as fishing lures or fish attractors, and fishing line for casting and retrieving the fish attractors. Several examples of fish attractors include spinner baits, jigs, plastic worms, fish hooks for attaching colorful or scented materials, fishing flies, and the like. Several examples of fishing line include monofilament line, leaders, tapered leaders, tippets, fly line, and the like.

Fishing equipment is generally designed and constructed for attracting and catching a specific species of fish. For example, fishing flies are generally constructed to resemble any one of a variety of species of insect that a particular species of fish feeds upon. Accordingly, some types of fishing equipment are generally very small. For example, a size 18 fish hook for a fishing fly measures approximately seven millimeters in length. Additionally, fish attractors generally include an eye for attaching the fishing line so that the fish attractor can be cast and retrieved. To maintain the appearance and attractability of the fish attractor, the eye is also generally constructed very small and in proportion to the size of the fish attractor.

However, connecting various types of fishing line material together and connecting the fishing line to the fish attractor can be cumbersome and time consuming. For example, since some types of fish attractors are generally constructed very small, threading and tying fishing line to the eye of the fish attractor becomes extremely difficult. With average or below average eyesight; poor lighting conditions; inclement weather; wind; a necessity to change the fish attractor quickly, such as during the limited

minutes of a hatch; or stiff, cold, wet, large, or arthritic hands; the difficulty and problem of threading and tying the fishing line to the eye of the fish attractor is greatly magnified.

5        Additionally, the size of the eye of the fish attractor generally determines the size of fishing line that may be used with the fish attractor. The smaller eyes of the fish attractors generally require smaller fishing line. Consequently, the fishing line becomes smaller in  
10      diameter, more limp, more difficult to see, and increasingly difficult to handle. For example, a size 18 fishing fly is approximately seven millimeters in length, has a fish hook eye outside diameter of approximately 0.75 millimeters, a fish hook eye inside diameter of approximately 0.30 millimeters, and will generally accommodate fishing line through the eye of the fish hook of approximately 0.13 millimeters or less. Thus, the flexibility of using a variety of sizes of fish attractor devices with different diameter fishing line is limited.

20      Further, interchanging fish attractors may require time consuming and cumbersome replacement of various sections of the fishing line. For example, leaders used in fly fishing may include several joined sections of line decreasing in diameter from the fly line to the fishing fly or tippet. When interchanging fishing flies, various portions of the fishing line are generally cut off and may require adding sections to the leader, replacement of the leader, replacement of the tippet, or replacement of both the leader and the tippet. Thus, the flexibility of  
25      30      interchanging fish attractors is generally limited.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, a need has arisen for an improved fishing system and method that provides greater ease and flexibility of use. The present invention provides no-tie fishing equipment and method that addresses shortcomings of prior fishing equipment and related methods of using such equipment.

According to one embodiment of the present invention, a no-tie fishing system includes a fish attractor having an eye. The eye includes a generally circular configuration and is disposed at an end of a shank. The eye also includes a distal end disposed adjacent to and permanently spaced from the shank. The system also includes a fishing line having a first end. A sliding loop is formed at the first end of the fishing line for releasably engaging the fishing line with the eye of the fish attractor. A permanently formed gap is disposed between the distal end of the eye and the shank. The gap is sized to allow the fishing line to slide therethrough.

According to another embodiment of the present invention, a method for fabricating no-tie fishing equipment for a fishing device includes providing a fishing line having a first end. The method also includes forming a sliding loop on the first end of the fishing line for releasably engaging the fishing line with the fishing device.

According to another embodiment of the present invention, a method for forming a no-thread fishing apparatus includes forming a point on a first end of a shank and forming a barb on the first end of the shank adjacent the point. The method also includes forming the first end of the shank into a hook and forming an eye having a generally circular configuration on the second end of the shank. The eye includes a distal end disposed adjacent to and permanently spaced from the shank thereby

forming a permanent gap between the distal end of the eye and the shank. The gap is sized to allow a fishing line to slide therethrough. The method also includes forming a first blocker on the second end of the shank. The first 5 blocker is positioned to prevent a fishing line coupled to the eye from sliding off the eye. The method further includes forming a second blocker on the shank. The second blocker is disposed between the hook and the first blocker. The second blocker is positioned to prevent an attractor 10 attached to the shank from obstructing the gap.

The present invention provides several technical advantages. In one embodiment of the present invention, the no-tie fishing system allows easier attachment of fishing line than other fishing equipment. For example, a 15 sliding loop may be formed on one end of the fishing line and releasably engaged with the eye of a fish attractor. Combining a sliding loop with an eye incorporating teachings of the present invention substantially eliminates threading fishing line through the eye of a fish attractor and tying the fishing line to the eye of the fish 20 attractor.

A no-tie fishing system incorporating teachings of the present invention provides greater flexibility than prior fishing systems by allowing increased use of smaller fish 25 attractors with larger diameter fishing line. For example, smaller fish attractors generally include smaller diameter eyes. A sliding loop formed on one end of the larger diameter fishing line may be releasably engaged with the eye of the smaller fish attractor. Combining a sliding 30 loop with an eye incorporating teachings of the present invention substantially eliminates threading the larger diameter fishing line through the generally smaller diameter eye of the small fish attractor.

Additionally, a no-tie fishing system incorporating 35 teachings of the present invention allows easier

interchangeability of fishing devices than other fishing systems by color coding a fish attractor and/or a fishing line. For example, color codes may be added to a leader, a tippet, and/or a fish attractor to designate the leader, 5 tippet and/or fish attractor for use in particular fishing applications. The leader, tippet, and/or fish attractor may be easily interchanged with a new leader, tippet, and/or fish attractor for use in a different fishing application using the color codes.

10 A no-tie fishing system incorporating the teachings of the present invention also provides greater efficiency than other fishing systems. For example, combining a sliding loop with an eye incorporating teachings of the present invention substantially reduces loss of fishing line resulting from removing portions of the fishing line when 15 interchanging fish attractors.

Other technical advantages will be readily apparent to one skilled in the art from the following figures, descriptions, and claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a complete understanding of the present invention, and the advantages thereof, reference is now made to the following descriptions taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a schematic drawing in elevation showing a no-tie fishing system constructed in accordance with teachings of the present invention;

FIGURE 2 is an enlarged view of a portion of the no-tie fishing system shown in FIGURE 1;

FIGURES 3A through 3C are enlarged elevational views illustrating a method for constructing a sliding loop for a no-tie fishing system constructed in accordance with teachings of the present invention;

FIGURE 4 is a schematic drawing in elevation illustrating an alternate embodiment of a no-tie fishing system constructed in accordance with teachings of the present invention;

FIGURE 5 is an enlarged view of a portion of the no-tie fishing system shown in FIGURE 4;

FIGURES 6A through 6G are enlarged elevational views illustrating a method for constructing a no-tie fishing apparatus in accordance with the teachings of the present invention;

FIGURES 7A and 7B are enlarged elevational views illustrating alternate embodiments of a no-tie fishing apparatus in accordance with the teachings of the present invention; and

FIGURES 8A and 8B are enlarged elevational views illustrating an alternate embodiment of a no-tie fishing apparatus in accordance with the teachings of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Embodiments of the present invention and its advantages are best understood by referring to FIGURES 1 through 8B of the drawings, like numerals being used for like and corresponding parts of the various drawings.

FIGURE 1 is an elevational view illustrating one embodiment of a no-tie fishing system 10 constructed in accordance with teachings of the present invention. Fishing system 10 includes fish attractor 12 and fishing line 14 attached to fish attractor 12. In the illustrated embodiment, fish attractor 12 may be generally described as a fishing fly. However, other suitable types and configurations of fish attractors 12 may be used, such as spinner baits, jigs, plastic worms, fish hooks, and the like (not explicitly shown).

Fish attractor 12 of fishing system 10 includes hook 16 having eye 18 for attaching fishing line 14 to fish attractor 12 so that fish attractor 12 can be cast and retrieved. In the illustrated embodiment, fishing line 14 includes tippet 20, leader 22, and fly line 24. However, fishing line 14 may include other suitable types and arrangements of fishing devices and materials for releasable engagement with fish attractor 12. For example, fish attractor 12 may be attached directly to leader 22 or fly line 24 (not explicitly shown).

In the embodiment illustrated in FIGURE 1, tippet 20 is preferably coupled to leader 22 by joining fixed loop 26 formed at one end of tippet 20 with fixed loop 28 formed at one end of leader 22. Additionally, leader 22 may be coupled to fly line 24 by joining fixed loop 30 formed at another end of leader 22 with fixed loop 32 formed at one end of fly line 24. For example, fixed loops 26 and 28 and fixed loops 30 and 32 may be respectively coupled using a handshake method of attachment as illustrated in FIGURE 1. However, other suitable methods or devices may be used for

attaching sections of fishing line 14 together. As will be described in greater detail in conjunction with FIGURES 2 and 3, fishing line 14 is preferably releasably engaged with fish attractor 12 using a sliding loop 34.

FIGURE 2 is an enlarged view illustrating a portion of fishing system 10. In the illustrated embodiment, eye 18 of hook 16 provides a location for attaching fishing line 14 to fish attractor 12 so that fish attractor 12 can be cast and retrieved. Eye 18 includes distal end 36 disposed adjacent shank 38 and spaced from shank 38. Eye 18 of fish attractor 12 also includes blocker 40 for preventing sliding loop 34 of fishing line 14 attached to eye 18 from sliding off eye 18. In the illustrated embodiment, blocker 40 includes barb 42 projecting outwardly from distal end 36 for preventing sliding loop 34 attached to eye 18 from sliding off eye 18. However, blocker 40 may be constructed having other suitable shapes or configurations for preventing sliding loop 34 from sliding off eye 18. For example, blocker 40 may project inward or outward with respect to distal end 36.

Fishing line 14 may be attached to fish attractor 12 using sliding loop 34. In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 2, sliding loop 34 is formed at one end of tippet 20. In operation, eye 18 of fish attractor 12, having distal end 36 spaced from shank 38, allows sliding loop 34 to be releasably engaged with eye 18. Sliding loop 34 may be tightened or clinched to eye 18, thereby securing tippet 20 to fish attractor 12. Sliding loop 34 may be loosened to allow removing fish attractor 12 and attaching another fish attractor to fishing line 14. A silicon coating or other suitable lubricant may be applied to portions of fishing line 14 to provide easier engagement and disengagement of sliding loop 34 with eye 18. Thus, fishing system 10 provides for easier attachment and removal of fish attractors from fishing line 14 than prior

fishing systems by alleviating a requirement of threading and tying tippet 20 to each fish attractor.

Additionally, fishing system 10 provides greater flexibility than prior fishing systems by allowing fish attractor 12 to be used with an increased variety of sizes of fishing line 14. For example, larger diameter fishing line 14 may be releasably engaged with eye 18 using sliding loop 34, thereby alleviating a requirement of threading and tying the larger diameter fishing line 14 onto eye 18 of fish attractor 12.

FIGURES 3A, 3B and 3C are enlarged elevational views illustrating one method for fabricating a sliding loop 34 for use with a fishing system incorporating teachings of the present invention. Referring to FIGURE 3A, loops 44 and 46 are formed using free end 48 of tippet 20. Loops 44 and 46 are positioned adjacent one another and adjacent central portion 50 of tippet 20.

Referring to FIGURE 3B, free end 48 of tippet 20 is looped over central portion 50 of tippet 20 and through loops 44 and 46. Free end 48 is then wrapped around central portion 50 and through loops 44 and 46 several times to form a plurality of loops 52 around central portion 50 and loops 44 and 46. In the illustrated embodiment, free end 48 is wrapped around central portion 50 and through loops 44 and 46 four times. However, free end 48 may be wrapped around central portion 50 and through loops 44 and 46 any number of times to produce sliding loop 34.

Referring to FIGURE 3C, a force is applied to free end 48 of tippet 20 in the direction indicated by arrow 54, thereby drawing free end 48 of tippet 20 away from loops 44, 46 and 52. The applied force to free end 48 of tippet 20 causes loops 44, 46 and 52 to be drawn together to form a sliding loop knot 56. Sliding loop knot 56 allows sliding loop 34 to be increased or decreased in diameter

for releasable engagement of sliding loop 34 with eye 18 of fish attractor 12.

In operation, sliding loop 34 may be placed over distal end 36 of eye 18 of fish attractor 12. A force is applied to sliding loop knot 56 to move sliding loop knot 56 toward eye 18 of fish attractor 12, thereby causing sliding loop 34 to decrease in diameter. As sliding loop 34 decreases in diameter, sliding loop 34 becomes tightened or clinched against eye 18 of fish attractor 12, thereby securing fishing line 14 to fish attractor 12. Blocker 40 of eye 18 prevents sliding loop 34 from disengaging from eye 18.

Additionally, fishing line 14 may be readily detached from fish attractor 12 by reversing the above-described operation. For example, a force may be applied to sliding loop knot 56 to move sliding loop knot 56 away from eye 18 of fish attractor 12, thereby causing sliding loop 34 to increase in diameter. As sliding loop 34 increases in diameter, sliding loop 34 may be readily moved over blocker 40 and removed from eye 18 of fish attractor 12.

Thus, fishing system 10 provides greater flexibility than prior fishing systems by providing for easier engagement and disengagement of fishing line 14 and fish attractor 12. Additionally, fishing system 10 provides greater flexibility than prior fishing systems by allowing increased use of smaller fish attractors 12 with larger diameter fishing line 14. For example, distal end 36 of eye 18 may be disposed adjacent shank 38 and spaced from shank 38 various distances to accommodate a variety of diameters of fishing line 14. Sliding loop 34 of fishing line 14 may be easily placed onto eye 18 of fish attractor 12 and secured using sliding loop knot 56.

Fishing system 10 may also be color coded to provide for easier interchangeability of fish attractor 12 and fishing line 14. For example, a specific type of fish

attractor 12 may be designed and constructed for generally lightweight fishing applications. Accordingly, the lightweight fish attractor 12 may require a corresponding lightweight fishing line 14 or fishing line 14 having a particular length or diameter. For example, a lightweight fish attractor 12 may require a particular length or diameter of tippet 20 for attaching to lightweight fish attractor 12. Eye 18 of lightweight fish attractor 12 may be color coded to designate that lightweight fish attractor 12 requires a particular length or diameter of tippet 20.

Fishing line 14 may also be color coded to designate fishing line 14 for a particular fishing application. Referring to FIGURE 1, for example, fishing line 14 may be color coded by color coding sliding loop 34, fixed loops 26 and 28, and fixed loops 30 and 32 of fishing line 14. Thus, for example, a specific type, diameter or length of tippet 20 may be easily replaced with another type, diameter or length of tippet 20 to accommodate a particular fishing application by selecting tippet 20 using the color codes of sliding loop 34 and/or fixed loop 26 of tippet 20.

For example, interchanging fish attractor 12 may require a different diameter tippet 20. Instead of adding or removing sections to leader 22 to accommodate the different diameter tippet 20, leader 22 may be easily replaced by selecting a new leader 22 using the color codes of fixed loops 28 and 30 of the new leader 22. For example, the new leader 22 may be selected by correlating the color codes of fixed loops 28 and 30 with the color codes of fixed loop 26 of tippet 20 and fixed loop 32 of fly line 24. Therefore, fishing system 10 provides for easier interchangeability than prior fishing systems by color coding fish attractor 12, fishing line 14, or both fish attractor 12 and fishing line 14.

For some applications, such as nymph fishing with a fishing fly type of fish attractor 12, color coding of

fixed loops 26 and/or 28 may be used to indicate fish strikes with fish attractor 12. For example, color coding of fixed loops 26 and/or 28 may indicate movement of fish attractor 12 resulting from fish strikes on fish attractor 12.

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Additionally, fishing system 10 provides greater flexibility than prior fishing systems by providing for easier interchangeability of fishing line 14 and fish attractor 12. For example, sliding loop 34 of fishing line 14 alleviates the requirement of detaching or cutting off a section of fishing line 14 for attaching fishing line 14 to a new fish attractor 12. Referring to FIGURE 1, for example, sliding loop 34 of tippet 20 may be easily removed from eye 18 of fish attractor 12 by applying a force to sliding loop knot 54 away from eye 18 and removing sliding loop 34 from eye 18. Sliding loop 34 of tippet 20 may then be easily placed onto eye 18 of a new fish attractor 12, thereby alleviating a requirement of detaching or cutting off a section of tippet 20 for attaching to the eye 18 of the new fish attractor 12. Therefore, fishing system 10 provides for greater flexibility than prior fishing systems by providing easier interchangeability of fish attractor 12 and fishing line 14.

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FIGURE 4 is a schematic drawing in elevation showing an alternate embodiment of fishing system 10 constructed in accordance with teachings of the present invention. In the illustrated embodiment, fish attractor 12 may be generally described as a fishing lure. Additionally, in the illustrated embodiment, fishing line 14 includes leader 22 and line 60. As previously described, leader 22 may be coupled to line 60 by joining fixed loop 30 formed at one end of leader 22 with fixed loop 62 formed at one end of line 60. Fixed loops 30 and 62 may be joined by using a handshake method of attachment as illustrated in FIGURE 4. However, other suitable methods or materials may be used

for attaching sections of fishing line 14 together. As will be described in greater detail in conjunction with FIGURE 5, fishing line 14 is preferably releasably engaged with fish attractor 12 using sliding loop 34.

FIGURE 5 is an enlarged view of a portion of fishing system 10. In the illustrated embodiment, fish attractor 12 also includes eye 18 having distal end 34 disposed adjacent shank 38 and spaced from shank 38. Shank 38 is attached to body 58 of fish attractor 12 by threading or screwing shank 38 into body 58 of fish attractor 12. However, other suitable methods or materials may be used to attach shank 38 to body 58 of fish attractor 12. Eye 18 of fish attractor 12 also includes blocker 40 for preventing sliding loop 34 from disengaging from eye 18 of fish attractor 12. In the illustrated embodiment, blocker 40 includes protrusion 64 projecting outwardly from distal end 36. However, other suitable shapes or configurations of blocker 40 may be used to prevent sliding loop 34 from disengaging from eye 18 of fish attractor 12. For example, blocker 40 may project inward or outward with respect to distal end 36.

Fishing line 14 may be attached to fish attractor 12 using sliding loop 34. In the embodiment illustrated in FIGURE 5, sliding loop 34 is formed at one end of leader 22. In operation, leader 22 of fishing line 14 is releasably engaged with eye 18 of fish attractor 12 using sliding loop 34. For example, in the illustrated embodiment, sliding loop 34 is placed over protrusion 64 and onto eye 18 of fishing lure 58. A force is applied to sliding loop knot 56 toward eye 18 causing sliding loop 34 to decrease in diameter. As sliding loop 34 decreases in diameter, sliding loop 34 becomes tightened or clinched against eye 18 of fish attractor 12, thereby releasably engaging leader 22 of fishing line 14 with eye 18 of fish attractor 12.

Additionally, as previously described, fishing line 14 may be readily detached from fish attractor 12 by reversing the above-described operation. For example, a force may be applied to sliding loop knot 56 to move sliding loop knot 56 away from eye 18 of fish attractor 12, thereby causing sliding loop 34 to increase in diameter. As sliding loop 34 increases in diameter, sliding loop 34 may be readily moved over protrusion 64 and removed from eye 18 of fish attractor 12.

Therefore, the present invention provides for increased flexibility by providing easier and quicker interchangeability of fishing devices. For example, a variety of fishing devices, such as fish hooks, jigs, fishing flies, swivels, and the like, may be used with a variety of fishing line 14 configurations to accommodate a variety of fishing applications. Additionally, the present invention provides greater flexibility by allowing increased diameter fishing line 14 to be used with a variety of fishing devices.

FIGURES 6A-6G are enlarged elevational views illustrating a method for constructing a no-tie fishing hook 70 in accordance with the teachings of the present invention. FIGURE 6A illustrates a shank 72 for forming no-tie fishing hook 70. No-tie fishing hook 70 may be constructed using steel or other suitable materials for shank 72. Additionally, a variety of diameters of shank 72 may be used to construct no-tie fishing hook 70. For example, no-tie fishing hook 70 may be constructed from shank 72 having a small diameter to accommodate decreased bend radii in subsequent forming operations of shank 72, decreased weight of no-tie fishing hook 70, and decreased visibility during fishing conditions.

In FIGURE 6B, a point 74 is formed at one end of shank 72. A barb 76 is formed at one end of shank 72 adjacent point 74 as illustrated in FIGURE 6C. Barb 76 may be used

to prevent an attractor attached to no-tie fishing hook 70 from sliding off no-tie fishing hook 70. Additionally, barb 76 may be used to prevent a fish that has been hooked with no-tie fishing hook 70 from releasing no-tie fishing hook 70.

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No-tie fishing hook 70 also includes blockers 78 and 80 formed on shank 72 as illustrated in FIGURE 6C. Blocker 78 may be formed on shank 72 to limit the movement of an attractor attached to shank 72. As will be described in greater detail in conjunction with FIGURE 6F, blocker 78 10 may also be formed on shank 72 to prevent an attractor attached to shank 72 from obstructing a gap formed between a distal end of an eye and shank 72. Blocker 80 may be formed on an end of shank 72 opposite point 74 to prevent a fishing line attached to no-tie fishing hook 70 from 15 sliding off no-tie fishing hook 70. For example, as will be described in greater detail in conjunction with FIGURE 6F, blocker 80 may be formed to prevent a fishing line engaged with an eye of no-tie fishing hook 70 from sliding 20 off the eye.

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FIGURE 6D is a side view of no-tie fishing hook 70 illustrated in FIGURE 6C taken along the line 6D-6D of FIGURE 6C. As illustrated in FIGURE 6D, blockers 78 and 80 may include barbs 82 and 84, respectively. For example, barb 82 25 may be formed having a point 86 directed along shank 72 and toward point 74, thereby preventing an attractor attached to shank 72 from migrating along shank 72 beyond barb 82. Barb 84 may be formed having a point 88 directed along shank 72 and toward point 74. Thus, as will be described in greater detail in conjunction with FIGURE 30 6F, as an eye is formed at the end of shank 72 having barb 84, barb 84 may be positioned to prevent a fishing line attached to the eye from sliding off the eye.

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FIGURE 6E illustrates a side view of no-tie fishing hook 70 illustrated in FIGURE 6D taken along the line 6E-6E

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of FIGURE 6D. As illustrated in FIGURE 6E, a hook 90 is formed at an end of shank 72 containing point 72. Additionally, as illustrated in FIGURES 6D and 6E, barbs 82 and 84 may be formed in a plane approximately ninety degrees from a plane of hook 90 to prevent damage or deformation to barbs 82 and 84 during formation of hook 90. However, barbs 82 and 84 may also be formed at other suitable angles about shank 72 with respect to the plane of hook 90.

In FIGURE 6F, an eye 92 having a generally circular configuration is formed at an end of shank 72 opposite hook 90. Eye 92 includes a distal end 94 disposed adjacent to and permanently spaced apart from shank 72, thereby forming a permanent gap 96 between distal end 94 of eye 92 and shank 72. Gap 96 may be sized to allow a fishing line to slide through gap 96 to an interior portion of eye 92. For example, gap 96 may be sized having a width measured between shank 72 and distal end 94 of approximately one half a diameter of shank 72. Further, for example, gap 96 may be sized having a width of approximately two times a diameter of a fishing line. Thus, gap 96 may be sized having a variety of sizes to accommodate various fishing requirements and conditions.

As illustrated in FIGURE 6F, eye 92 may be formed in a plane substantially parallel to the plane of hook 90 to prevent damage or deformation to barbs 82 and 84 during formation of eye 92. However, eye 92 may also be formed in other suitable planes with respect to the plane of hook 90. Additionally, eye 92 may be formed having a variety of sizes to accommodate various fishing requirements and conditions. For example, eye 92 may be formed having an interior diameter approximately two times a diameter of shank 72. Thus, eye 92 may be formed having a small size while allowing easy engagement and disengagement of a fishing line to eye 92.

As illustrated in FIGURE 6F, blocker 80 is positioned on shank 72 such that after forming eye 92, blocker 80 is positioned to prevent a fishing line attached to eye 92 from sliding off distal end 94 of eye 92. For example, 5 blocker 80 may include barb 84 having point 88 directed away from distal end 94 of eye 92. Thus, in operation, sliding loop 34 may be placed into gap 96, over distal end 94 and past barb 84 to releasably engage eye 92 at a portion of eye 92 between barb 84 and blocker 78. Thus, 10 barb 84 may be positioned to prevent sliding loop 34 from sliding off distal end 94 of eye 92. Additionally, blocker 78 may be positioned along shank 72 to prevent an attractor attached to shank 72 from obstructing gap 96. For example, blocker 78 may be positioned on shank 72 below gap 96 15 toward hook 90 such that blocker 78 prevents migration of the attractor along shank 72 towards eye 92. Therefore, blocker 78 may be positioned to limit the movement of the attractor along shank 72. Therefore, gap 96 may remain unobstructed for easy engagement and disengagement of a 20 fishing line with eye 92.

FIGURE 6G illustrates an example method of forming a barb on no-tie fishing hook 70. In this example, barb 84 is formed in a plane substantially parallel to the plane of eye 92. However, the example method described below may be applied to forming barbs at other suitable locations and orientations on no-tie fishing hook 70. As illustrated in 25 FIGURE 6G, barb 84 may be formed by nicking or slicing a surface of shank 72 to cause a portion 98 of shank 72 to partially separate from shank 72. Portion 98 may be manipulated outwardly away from shank 72 to form barb 84. The above-described method of forming barb 84 may also be used to form barbs 76 and 82 of no-tie fishing hook 70. However, other suitable methods may also be used to form 30 barbs 82, 84 and 76.

FIGURE 7A is an enlarged elevational view illustrating an alternate embodiment of a no-tie fishing hook 100 in accordance with the teaching of the present invention. In this example, no-tie fishing hook 100 includes an eye 102 having a generally circular configuration disposed at one end of a shank 104. Eye 102 includes a distal end 106 disposed adjacent to and permanently spaced from shank 104, thereby forming a permanent gap 108 disposed between distal end 106 of eye 102 and shank 104. Gap 108 may be sized to allow a fishing line to slide through gap 108 and into an interior area of eye 102. For example, sliding loop 34 may be slid through gap 108 and over distal end 106 to releasably engage eye 102.

No-tie fishing hook 100 also includes a hook 110 having a barb 112 formed at an end of shank 104 opposite eye 102. No-tie fishing hook 100 also includes a blocker 114 disposed on shank 104. Blocker 114 may be positioned on shank 104 to prevent an attractor attached to shank 104 from obstructing gap 108. For example, an attractor may be attached to shank 104 at hook 110 and extend along shank 104 toward blocker 114. Blocker 114 may be used to prevent the attractor from migrating upwardly along shank 104 toward gap 108. Therefore, blocker 114 may be positioned to prevent gap 108 from becoming obstructed, thereby providing easier engagement and disengagement of a fishing line to eye 102.

In the embodiment illustrated in FIGURE 7A, blocker 114 includes a wrapping medium 116, such as thread, plastic, or other suitable materials. Wrapping medium 116 may be wrapped around shank 104 as required to prevent gap 108 from becoming obstructed. Wrapping medium 116 may also include an elastic material that may be stretched and slid onto no-tie fishing hook 100 and slid along shank 104 to a desired position to prevent obstruction of gap 108.

FIGURE 7B is an enlarged elevational view illustrating an alternate embodiment of a no-tie fishing hook 118 in accordance with the teachings of the present invention. No-tie fishing hook 118 includes an eye 120 having a generally circular configuration disposed at one end of a shank 122. Eye 120 includes a distal end 124 disposed adjacent to and permanently spaced from shank 122, thereby forming a permanent gap 126 disposed between distal end 124 of eye 120 and shank 122. Gap 126 may be sized to allow a fishing line to slide through gap 126 and into an interior area of eye 120.

No-tie fishing hook 118 also includes a hook 128 having a barb 130 formed at an end of shank 122 opposite eye 120. No-tie fishing hook 118 also includes a blocker 132 to prevent an attractor attached to shank 122 from obstructing gap 126. In this example, blocker 132 includes a protrusion 134 formed on shank 122. Protrusion 134 may be sized to prevent a variety of sizes of attractors from migrating upwardly along shank 122 toward eye 120 from obstructing gap 126. Blocker 132 may also include other suitable shapes and configurations to prevent attractors attached to shank 122 from obstructing gap 126.

FIGURE 8A is an enlarged elevational view illustrating an alternate embodiment of a no-tie fishing hook 150 in accordance with the teachings of the present. In this example, no-tie fishing hook 150 includes an eye 152 disposed at one end of a shank 154. No-tie fishing hook 150 also includes a hook 156 having a barb 158 formed at an end of shank 154 opposite eye 152. In this example, eye 152 is formed at an angle 160 such that eye 152 is directed inwardly toward hook 156. However, eye 152 may also be formed at other suitable angles and orientations. Eye 152 also includes a blocker 162 to prevent a fishing line attached to eye 152 from sliding off of eye 152. In this

example, blocker 162 is formed by squeezing or flattening a distal end 164 of eye 152.

FIGURE 8B is an enlarged side view of eye 152 illustrated in FIGURE 8A taken along the line 8B-8B of FIGURE 8A. As illustrated in FIGURE 8B, eye 152 includes distal end 164 disposed adjacent to and permanently spaced apart from shank 154, thereby forming a permanent gap 166 between distal end 164 of eye 152 and shank 154. Gap 166 may be sized to allow a fishing line to slide through gap 166 to an interior portion of eye 152. Thus, gap 166 may be sized to accommodate a variety of fishing line sizes to meet various fishing requirements and conditions.

As described above, blocker 162 may be formed by squeezing or flattening distal end 164 of eye 152, thereby increasing a width of distal end 164 relative to a width of an adjacent portion 168 of eye 152. Eye 152 also includes an arcuately formed portion 170 between distal end 164 and adjacent portion 168 of eye 152 to provide a smooth transition from blocker 162 to adjacent portion 168. In operation, sliding loop 34 may be slid through gap 166 and over blocker 162 to releasably engage eye 152. Sliding loop 134 may then be tightened or clenched against eye 152. Thus, blocker 162 prevents sliding loop 34 from disengaging eye 152.

Although the present invention and its advantages have been described in detail, it should be understood that various changes, substitutions, and alterations, can be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A no-tie fishing system comprising:

a fish attractor having an eye, the eye having a generally circular configuration and disposed at an end of a shank, the eye having a distal end disposed adjacent to and permanently spaced from the shank;

a fishing line having a first end;

a permanently formed gap disposed between the distal end of the eye and the shank, the gap sized to allow the fishing line to slide therethrough; and

a sliding loop formed at the first end of the fishing line for releasably engaging the fishing line with the eye of the fish attractor.

15 2. The fishing system of Claim 1, wherein the fishing line comprises a tippet.

3. The fishing system of Claim 1, wherein the fishing line comprises a leader.

20 4. The fishing system of Claim 1, wherein the fish attractor comprises a fishing fly.

25 5. The fishing system of Claim 1, wherein the eye of the fish attractor comprises a first color code, and wherein the sliding loop of the fishing line comprises a second color code, the first and second color codes coordinated for a specific fishing application.

30 6. The fishing system of Claim 1, further comprising the fishing line having a second end with a fixed loop disposed thereon.

7. The fishing system of Claim 1, wherein the fishing line further comprises:

a first section having a first end and a second end;

a second section having a first end and a second end;

5 the sliding loop formed on the first end of the first section; and

the second end of the first section releasably engaged with the first end of the second section.

10 8. The fishing system of Claim 7, wherein the first section comprises a tippet, and wherein the second section comprises a leader.

15 9. The fishing system of Claim 7, further comprising:

a fixed loop formed on the second end of the first section; and

20 a fixed loop formed on the first end of the second section.

10. A no-tie fishing apparatus for a fishing device comprising:

a fishing line having a first end; and

5 a sliding loop formed on the first end of the fishing line for releasably engaging the fishing line with the fishing device.

11. The fishing apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the fishing line comprises a tippet.

10

12. The fishing apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the fishing line comprises a leader.

15

13. The fishing apparatus of Claim 10, further comprising the fishing line having a second end with a fixed loop disposed thereon.

20

14. The fishing apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the fishing line further comprises:

a first section having a first end and a second end;

a second section having a first end and a second end;

the sliding loop formed on the first end of the first section; and

25

the second end of the first section releasably engaged with the first end of the second section.

15. The fishing apparatus of Claim 14, wherein the first section comprises a tippet, and wherein the second section comprises a leader.

30

16. The fishing apparatus of Claim 14, further comprising:

a fixed loop formed on the second end of the first section; and

5 a fixed loop formed on the first end of the second section.

17. A method for fabricating a no-tie fishing apparatus for a fishing device comprising:

providing a fishing line, the fishing line having a first end; and

5 forming a sliding loop on the first end of the fishing line for releasably engaging the fishing line with the fishing device.

10 18. The method of Claim 17, wherein the step of forming a sliding loop comprises:

forming a first loop with a first end of the fishing line;

15 forming a second loop with the first end of the fishing line, the second loop formed adjacent the first loop;

wrapping the first end of the fishing line through the first and second loops and around a central portion of the fishing line; and

20 drawing the first end of the fishing line away from the first and second loops to form the sliding loop.

19. The method of Claim 17, further comprising forming a fixed loop on a second end of the fishing line.

25 20. The method of Claim 19, wherein the fishing line further comprises:

a first section having a first end and a second end;

30 a second section having a first end and a second end, the first end of the second section releasably engaged with the second end of the first section; and

wherein the step of forming a sliding loop comprises forming the sliding loop on the first end of the first section.

21. The method of Claim 20, further comprising:  
forming a fixed loop on the second end of the first  
section; and  
forming a fixed loop on the first end of the second  
section.

22. A sliding loop formed on one end of a fishing line by a sliding loop knot, the sliding loop knot formed by a method comprising:

5 forming a first loop with a first end of the fishing line;

forming a second loop with the first end of the fishing line, the second loop formed adjacent the first loop;

10 wrapping the first end of the fishing line through the first and second loops and around a central portion of the fishing line; and

15 drawing the first end of the fishing line away from the first and second loops to form the sliding loop knot.

23. A method for forming a no-thread fishing apparatus comprising:

forming a point on a first end of a shank;

5 forming a barb on the first end of the shank adjacent the point;

forming the first end of the shank into a hook;

10 forming an eye having a generally circular configuration on the second end of the shank, the eye having a distal end disposed adjacent to and permanently spaced from the shank thereby forming a permanent gap between the distal end of the eye and the shank, the gap sized to allow a fishing line to slide therethrough;

15 forming a first blocker on the second end of the shank, the first blocker positioned to prevent a fishing line coupled to the eye from sliding off the eye; and

20 forming a second blocker on the shank, the second blocker disposed between the hook and the first blocker, the second blocker positioned to prevent an attractor attached to the shank from obstructing the gap.

24. The method of Claim 23, wherein forming a first blocker comprises forming a second barb.

25. The method of Claim 23, wherein forming a second blocker comprises forming a second barb.

26. The method of Claim 25, wherein forming a second barb comprises nicking a surface of the shank to form the second barb.

30 27. The method of Claim 23, wherein forming a first blocker comprises forming a second barb disposed approximately ninety degrees from a plane of the hook.

28. The method of Claim 23, wherein forming an eye comprises forming the eye substantially parallel to a plane of the hook.

5        29. The method of Claim 23, wherein forming an eye comprises forming the eye having an interior eye diameter approximately two times a diameter of the shank.

10      30. The method of Claim 23, wherein forming a first blocker comprises flattening the distal end of the eye.

31. A no-thread fishing apparatus comprising:  
a shank having a first end and a second end;  
a hook disposed at the first end of the shank;  
an eye having a generally circular configuration  
disposed at the second end of the shank;

5 the eye having a distal end disposed adjacent to and  
permanently spaced from the shank thereby forming a  
permanent gap disposed between the distal end of the eye  
and the shank, the gap sized to allow a fishing line to  
10 slide therethrough;

a first blocker formed as an integral portion of the  
eye adjacent the distal end to prevent the fishing line  
from sliding off the eye; and

15 a second blocker disposed on the shank between the  
hook and the gap to prevent an attractor disposed on the  
shank from obstructing the gap.

32. The fishing apparatus of Claim 31, wherein the  
first blocker comprises a barb.

20 33. The fishing apparatus of Claim 31, wherein the  
second blocker comprises a barb.

25 34. The fishing apparatus of Claim 31, wherein the  
second blocker comprises a wrapping medium secured to the  
shank.

30 35. The fishing apparatus of Claim 31, wherein the  
eye is formed substantially parallel to a plane of the  
hook.

35 36. The fishing apparatus of Claim 31, wherein the  
second blocker is formed approximately ninety degrees from  
a plane of the hook.

37. The fishing apparatus of Claim 31, wherein the second blocker comprises a barb formed in a direction toward the hook.

5       38. The fishing apparatus of Claim 31, wherein the first blocker comprises a barb formed in a direction away from the second end of the shank.

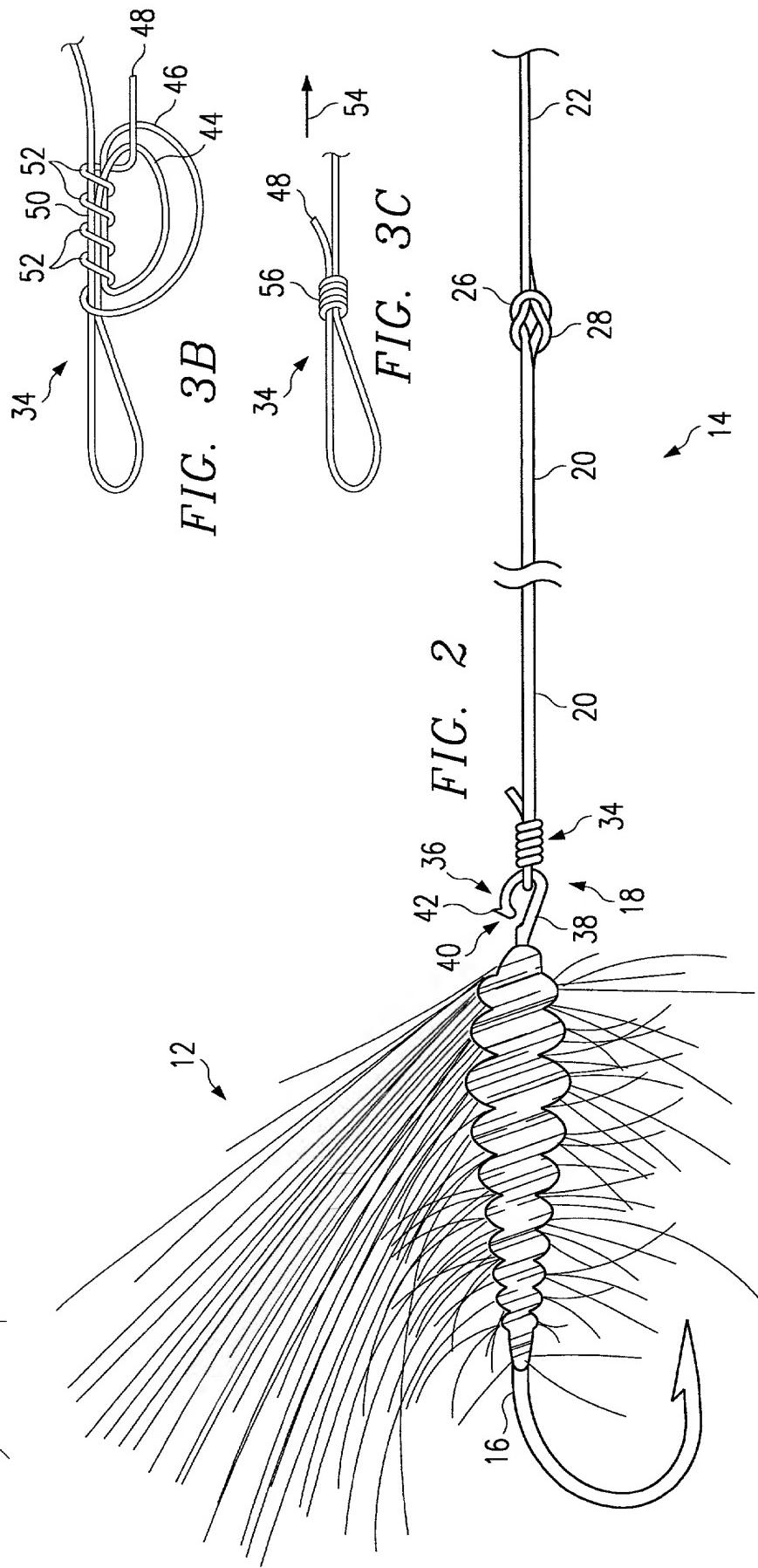
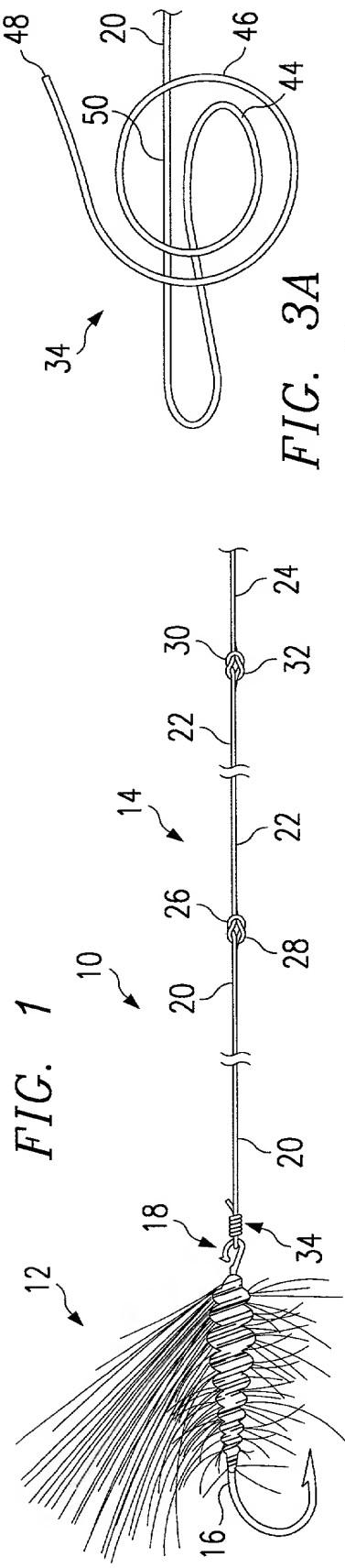
10      39. The fishing apparatus of Claim 31, wherein the eye is formed having an interior eye diameter approximately two times a diameter of the shank.

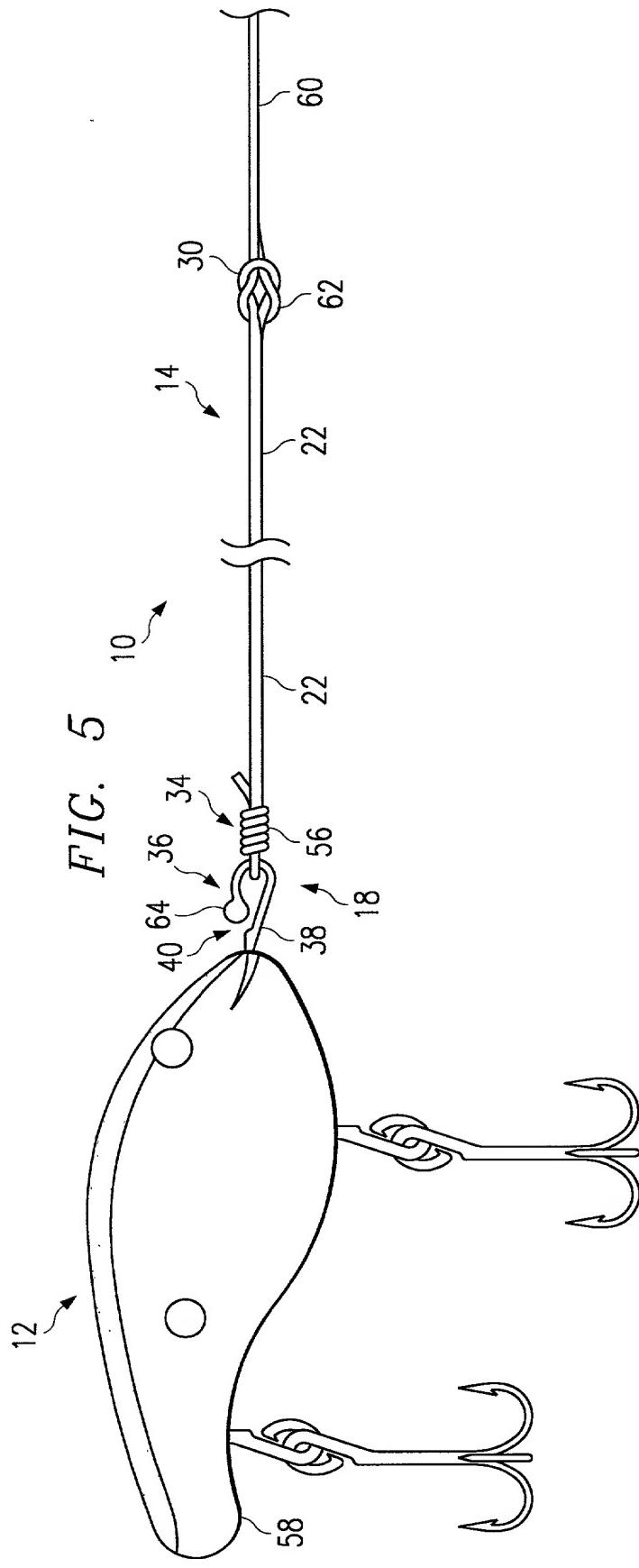
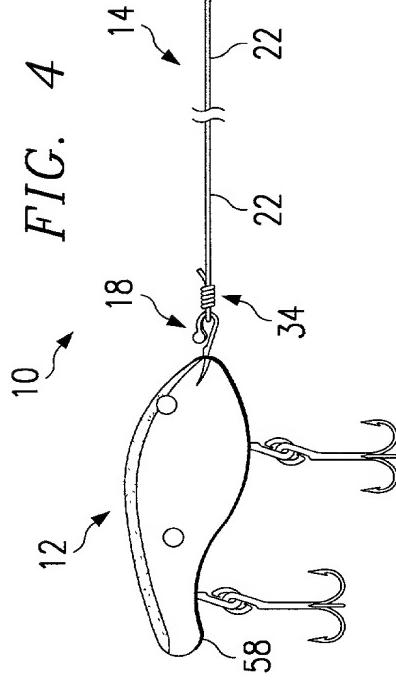
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## NO-TIE FISHING SYSTEM AND METHOD

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A no-tie fishing system is provided with a fish attractor having an open eye with a blocker. The eye of the fish attractor is disposed at an end of a shank. The 5 eye includes a distal end disposed adjacent to and spaced from the shank. The fishing system also includes a fishing line having a first end with a sliding loop formed thereon. The sliding loop may be releasably engaged with the eye of the fish attractor. The fishing line may have a second end 10 with a fixed loop formed thereon for releasable engagement with other portions of the fishing system.





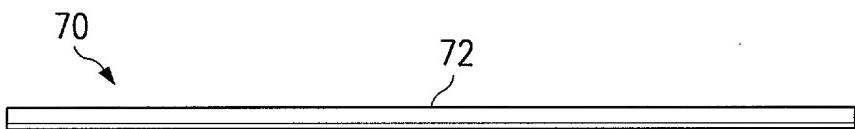


FIG. 6A

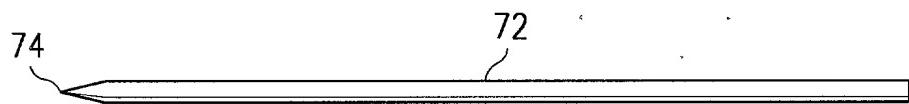


FIG. 6B



FIG. 6C

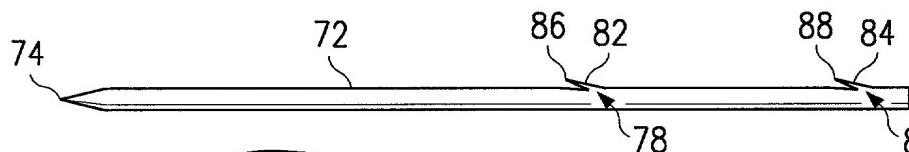


FIG. 6D

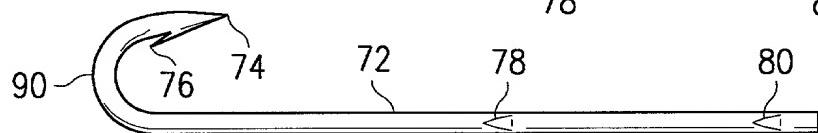


FIG. 6E

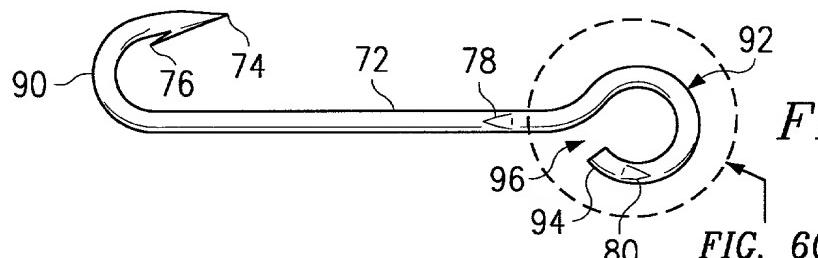


FIG. 6F

FIG. 6G

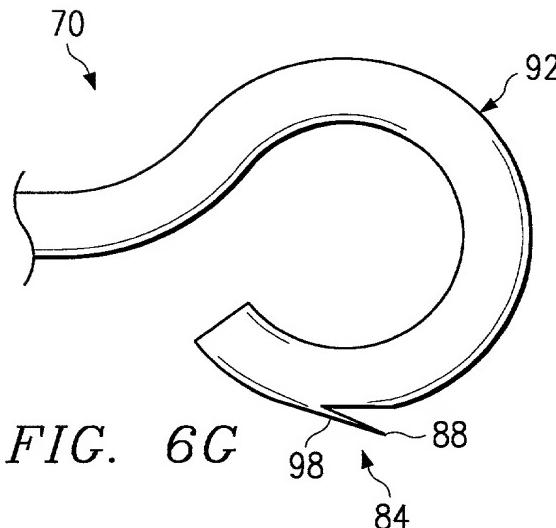


FIG. 6G

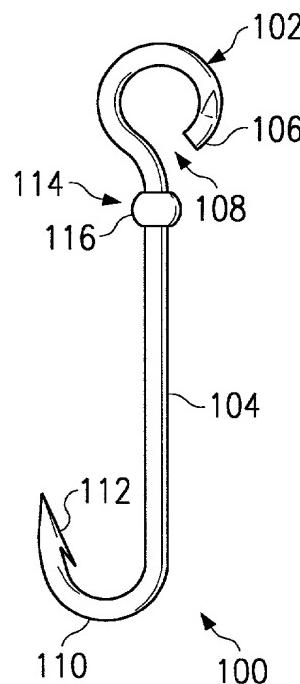


FIG. 7A

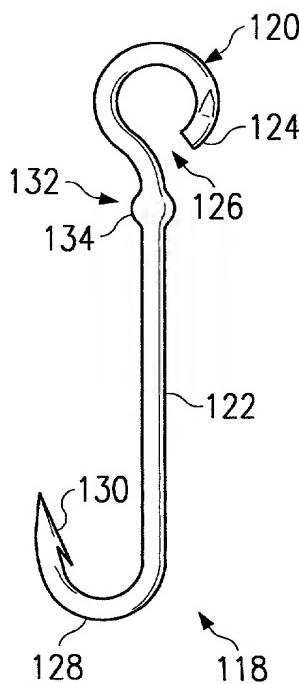


FIG. 7B

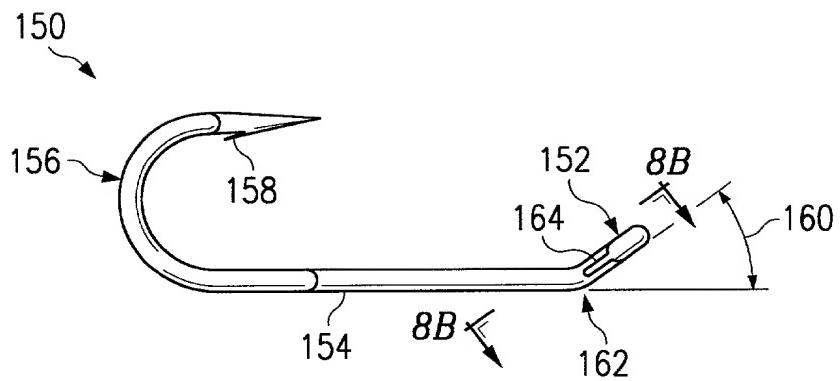


FIG. 8A

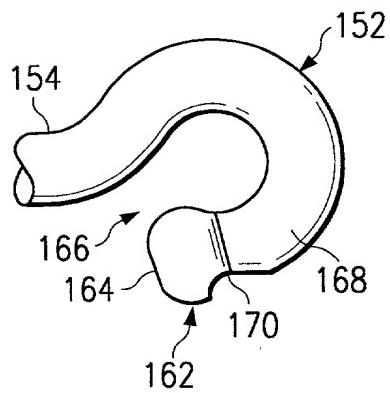


FIG. 8B